FBIS DAILY REPORT

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LAES MEETING APPROVES UNCTAD PROPOSALS

PA201620 Paris AFP in Spanish 2340 GMT 19 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 19 Jan (AFP)--Representatives of 25 Latin American governments approved here tonight a set of proposals in connection with the Fifth UNCTAD Conference which will be held in Manila in May. Among the Latin American agreements that will be discussed with the other developing countries in Tanzania in February are measures to check the protectionist tendencies of the industrialised countries, relations with the socialist countries, controls over transnational companies and support for a new international economic order.

The final document of the meeting, which was held under Latin American Economic System [LAES] auspices, stressed the concurrence of all participating governments in attaching importance to closer economic relations among the developing countries. This is the first essential step to improve the position of the underdeveloped Southern Hemisphere in its negotiations with the industrialized North, meeting sources said. The only Latin American country that was absent from the event was Paraguay.

In reviewing the international economic situation, the experts noted that recessive symptoms and inflationary processes persist in the developed nations with multiple negative effects on the developing countries. Particularly affected, they said, are the volume and value of trade in the developing countries and the real (?purchasing) power of their foreign exchange revenues. They emphasized that international economic problems are sufficiently identified already, and the general policy measures to face them have been suggested, negotiated and adopted by the conference and the UN General Assembly. However, in the implementation of the decisions, they said, there is a lack of political will for making commitments for specific action. The meeting thought it necessary to introduce structural changes in basic sectors of the world economy such as:

--In the distribution and control of world resources and in consistent decision-making;

--In production, trade and consumption which will make economic activity more rational and equitable; and

--In the institutions responsible for coordination, negotiation and action which will permit effective cooperation.

They rejected the line suggested by the industrialized [countries] that the Third World should promote simple technology requiring little capital and much labor. To accept this line, the document says, would be to freeze our development qualitatively and to consolidate an unjust and progressively ineffective international division of labor.

The meeting viewed the East-South dialog as interesting and suggested the establishment of agreements and long-term contracts with the socialist countries. The importance of relations with the socialist bloc was highlighted in view of the current status of the international economy and the signs of growing protectionism on the part of the Western industrialized powers.

The Latin American proposals on the fifth UNCTAD agenda will be discussed with the countries of Asia and Africa in Arusha, Tanzania, in February with the goal of taking a united Third World position to the Manila conference.

COLOMBO RETURNS, DISCUSSES PARANA NEGOTIATIONS

PY230237 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Jan 79 p 1 PY

[Text] Rear Adm Horacio Colombo, who returned yesterday from Brasilia and Asuncion, where he carried out the mission given him by the Foreign Ministry regarding the problem of the upper Parana dams and the respective trilateral negotiations, denied that these have been interrupted and he asserted that "it is a question of seeking conciliation and harmony."

On his arrival at Ezeiza from Asuncion, Colombo refused to say anything about the outcome of his mission "until we have a complete answer."

He added: "The positive aspect is that of waiting for the answer which we must receive once the officials with whom I met have consulted with their respective higher authorities."

Questioned by reporters regarding whether the greatest difficulties of the problem lie in the technical, economic or political aspects, Colombo said that "I believe that at the present time the overall problem is being discussed. With the passing of time agreements and new formulas are being sought."

Regarding possible dates for the renewal of the tripartite talks, Colombo remarked that "to determine dates is a little difficult because in the case of three countries sitting down together at a table depends on the answer of all of them."

Regarding the question of whether he had taken a definite proposal for the renewal of the negotiations to Brasilia and Asuncion, Colombo, repeating, answered that "it is not a question of renewing the talks which, as I have already said, have not been interrupted; it is a question of seeking new formulas for conciliation and harmony."

BRIEFS

OIL EXPLOITATION--Buenos Aires, 16 Jan (TELAM)--The executive branch has assigned to Government Oil Deposits two zones in Salta Province for the exploitation of hydrocarbons. This decision was made as part of the oil sector's reactivation plan proposed by the energy secretariat. The areas to be exploited are called "Ramos" and "Martinez del Tineo," measuring 23,220.75 and 4,232 hectares, respectively. The government established a term of 25 years for development and production tasks. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1958 GMT 16 Jan 79 PY]

MISSING REPORTER RETURNS--Salta, Argentina, 12 Jan (AFP)--Chilean reporter Ruben Gomez Quesada, who was kidnaped from his house on 29 December 1978 by armed men, showed up in good condition yesterday and returned to his house after being questioned by the police. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1111 GMT 12 Jan 79 PY]

DETAINEES RELEASED--Buenos Aires, 12 Jan (NA)--The Interior Ministry reported this afternoon that 17 persons were released by the executive branch between 2 and 12 January. Another 11 persons were released on parole and one was authorized to leave the country. [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2020 GMT 12 Jan 79 PY]

OIL, GAS FOUND--Government Oil Deposits, YPF, has reported that light oil and gas have been found in Tartagal, Salta Province. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 19 Jan 79 PY]

STRIKE CALLED OFF BY PRESS WORKERS' ORGANIZATION

PY221648 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 22 Jan 79 PY

[Text] The strike of the Bolivian press workers' federation scheduled for today has been suspended. A communique issued by the executive committee of this union stated that "the executive committee of the Bolivian press workers' federation informs all branches throughout the country that it has decided to suspend the nationwide 24-hour strike which was scheduled for Monday 22 January. This decision is in line with negotiations initiated by Labor Ministry officials, whose first result was a meeting between leaders of the federation and the national press association."

The communique added that "the meeting decided that the national press association and the Labor Ministry will participate in the search for a joint solution of the press workers' salary problems."

The leaders of the Bolivian press workers' federation reaffirmed their position regarding the justness of their requests, while the leaders of the national press association acknowledged that in view of the current economic situation the demands of the workers were justified.

A new meeting is scheduled for Tuesday to begin studying the salary demands and the national press association will send a note to its members recommending priority attention to the matter.

While the negotiations proceed the press workers' federation will maintain a state of emergency [words indistinct].

LLOYD AIRLINE OFFICIALS FIRED FOR 'IRREGULARITIES'

PY181407 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Jan 79 PY

[Text] As a measure toward the solution of the strike declared by personnel of the Lloyd Bolivian Airline [LAB], the board of the enterprise has unanimously decided to dismiss several executives, reportedly guilty of administrative irregularities, from their posts, while the internal investigation process is going on. The following LAB officials have thus been dismissed from the enterprise: Generals Federico Casanovas and (Antonio Arnez Camacho) and civilians (Gary Lacusta) (Edgar Vilch), (Jaime Calderon), (Julio Mendoza), (Juan Carreras), (Daniel Sanchez Bustamante), (Hernan Vasquez) and (Osvaldo Ballac).

Transport and Communications Minister Juan Munoz and LAB manager Gen (Tito Rodriguez) went to Cochabamba yesterday afternoon with the board resolution. The latter official will seek to obtain normalization of LAB services this morning.

BRIEFS

GEOTHERMIC ENERGY--La Paz, 19 Jan (LATIN)--The Andean Development Corporation (CAF) has granted Bolivia a credit of $267,500 for prospecting and evaluation of the country's geothermic potential in the southeast of the country, aimed at the development of the first Bolivian geothermic plant. The feasibility studies will be carried out by the Italian geothermic enterprise with the participation of Bolivian technicians. [La Paz Diplomatic Service in Spanish 0800 GMT 20 Jan 79 PY]

MDB CONGRESSMEN CRITICIZE FIGUEIREDO'S CABINET

PY201756 Paris AFP in Spanish 0309 GMT 20 Jan 79 PY

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 19 Jan (AFP)--Several members of Congress of the legal opposition party today harshly criticized the members of the future Brazilian Cabinet announced in Brasilia by President-elect Joao Baptista Figueiredo today.

The criticism by members of Congress of the Brazilian Democratic Movement (MDB) were aimed at the ministers of the economic team and the members of previous governments who are now in Figueiredo's cabinet, such as Antonio Delfim Neto, Mario Andreazza and Mario Henrique Simonsen.

According to Senator Paulo Brossard, MDB leader in the upper chamber of the national Congress, the new cabinet keeps the team which created this economic chaos which is called a miracle.

Opposition Senator Orestes Quercia said that the group dominating the system, after winning the battle for succession, divided their inheritance by being indifferent to the misery of the people.

MDB Senator Pedro Simon from Rio Grande do Sul said that the leading ministers of the future government, such as Gen Goldbery do Couto e Silva, Delfim Neto, Mario Henrique Simonsen, Carlos Rischbieter and Mario Andreazza, were the ones responsible for the current economic situation and the foreign debt.

BRIEFS

ARMY APPOINTMENTS--Gen Ruy de Paula Couto will assume duties today as chief of the army minister's general services department and in so doing will become a member of the army high command. He will replace Gen Antonio Bandeira, who on 16 January will assume command of the III Army. He will receive command from Gen Samuel Alves Correa, who is the future army chief of staff. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 12 Jan 79 p 16 PY]

REACTOR PLANT TO BE IDLE--The reactor plant scheduled for inauguration on 22 February in Itaguai, State of Rio de Janeiro, at a cost of $300 million, will lie idle for the simple reason that there are no orders to be filled. The nuclear plant number 3 under the Brazilian-FRG agreement for which the Itaguai plant was supposed to manufacture equipment has no site chosen or time scheduled for construction. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 14 Jan 79 p 1 PY]

DRILLING PLATFORM SUNK--As a drilling platform for the Campos oil basin was being towed from Scotland to Brazil, it was sunk in high seas caused by strong winds. This accident will cause a delay in exploitation plans for the Campos oil field in Rio de Janeiro State. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 13 Jan 79 p 1 PY]

COMMUNIQUE ON IMPRISONED BRAZILIAN--Brasilia, 16 Jan (LATIN)--The Uruguayan Embassy in Brasilia today issued a lengthy communique in which it details the present state of health of Brazilian citizen Flavia Schilling, who was recently operated on at a military hospital in Montevideo. Schilling was condemned to a 12-year prison term for subversive activities and has already served 6 of them. It was reported that the communique was a result of concern for her welfare expressed by various sectors in Brazil, including the Foreign Ministry. [Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1944 GMT 16 Jan 79 PY]

HEARING CONCLUDES ON EXTRADITION; DECISION AWAITED

PY230242 Paris AFP in Spanish 2100 GMT 22 Jan 79 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 22 Jan (AFP)--A special judge here today concluded a 4-month investigation in order to decide whether he will grant or deny the extradition of three Chilean military officers requested by the United States, it was reported here.

Israel Borquez, president of the Supreme Court, who undertook the investigation, reported today that the hearing [sumario] was closed and that the transcript will be submitted to the parties before a decision is handed down.

He reported that tomorrow, Tuesday, he will send the transcript to the lawyer who represents the U.S. Government in order that he formulate his viewpoints within a period of 20 days.

Then and for the same purpose the transcript will be studied by the lawyers of the three officers who are under arrest in a Santiago hospital.

The judge explained that as soon as this procedure is completed the Chilean Supreme Court will determine whether it will grant extradition or not.

FORMER AMBASSADOR TO PERU MEETS WITH CUBILLOS

PY221824 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1455 GMT 22 Jan 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 22 Jan (LATIN)--Former Ambassador Francisco Bulnes Sanfuentes has stated in Santiago that he was "frustrated" by the Peruvian Government's decision to declare him persona non grata due to alleged espionage activities carried out in Peru by Chilean military officers.

Bulnes made this statement yesterday after he held a 3 and 1/2 hour meeting with Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos at the latter's private residence.

When he was overwhelmed by journalists Bulnes declined to make any statement and only said: "Whenever I cannot serve the fatherland I am frustrated."

He added, however, that he will probably have a meeting with President Pinochet tomorrow, at which time he will inform him on the situation and that later he "will probably talk with the press."

Moreover, Cubillos also declined to talk about the situation and only said that during the meeting with Bulnes he was informed in detail about what had happened in Lima.

In an official declaration issued early Sunday morning, the Chilean Government deplored the situation brought on by Peru, whose military regime declared Ambassador Bulnes persona non grata and expelled him from the country.

Cubillos Views Ambassador's Expulsion

PY221804 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 22 Jan 79 PY

[Excerpts] Activity along the Chilean-Peruvian border is completely normal, according to reports from the area. During the past weekend border traffic continued as usual through the (Chacayuta) border crossing.

Moreover, Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos has stated that Chilean relations with Peru have deteriorated but that it is hoped this situation will be overcome.

The foreign minister this morning held a 3-hour meeting with Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez, with the chief of [words indistinct] and the chief of the advisory committee.

Cubillos noted that this was the usual daily meeting of the advisory committee. Cubillos reasserted that Chilean relations with Peru are normal. He added that nothing new has come up as a result of Ambassador Bulnes' explusion from Peru.

The foreign minister said that the Chilean Government will request at the proper time the Peruvian Government's approval of a new Chilean ambassador.

Asked whether General [name indistinct] was being considered for this post, Cubillos said that the only one who can make such a decision is the president, with whom he is in constant telephone contact.

The foreign minister admitted that Chilean-Peruvian relations have deteriorated [passage indistinct]. He added that any problem leaves a scar which takes time to be healed but that he hopes this issue can be overcome.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEMONSTRATORS DETAINED BY POLICE

PY221244 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0148 GMT 21 Jan 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 20 Jan (LATIN)--The police reported today that about 50 persons were detained here today under charges of creating disorder and after trying to hold an unauthorized meeting.

The demonstrators gathered in a downtown plaza to hold a meeting organized by a group of "families of missing persons."

The group erected a platform from which several speakers discussed "human rights" in Chile.

Carabineros released all the detainees after they verified their residences, according to police sources.

BRIEFS

BONDS SOLD--Santiago, Chile, 19 Jan (LATIN)--The Daiwa Bank of Tokyo has purchased $52 million of bonds issued by the Chilean Government. The bonds were purchased at a 7.5 percent interest rate and with a 10 year grace period. [Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0156 GMT 20 Jan 79 PY]

FOREIGN DEBT--Santiago, Chile, 19 Jan (LATIN)--The Chilean Central Bank has reported that the total Chilean foreign debt for 1978 is $6.6 billion and that the net foreign debt is $5.1 billion. [Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1259 GMT 19 Jan 79 PY]

CHILEANS EXPELLED FROM ARGENTINA--Wednesday night Argentine authorities expelled from that country a group of 70 Chilean citizens who had been residing there, some for as long as 20 years. [Paris AFP in Spanish 2358 GMT 18 Jan 79 PY]

L. AMERICAN CONGRESS TO BE HELD HERE IN APRIL

PA181435 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Leaders of worldwide political prestige will meet in Bogota on 16, 17 and 18 April. They will attend a congress on the integration of countries which is being organized by the Latin American Parliament. The meetings will be held in the national capitol and the guests will be received by the presidents of the Senate and house, Guillermo Plazas Alcid and Jorge Mario Eastman, respectively.

Among the prominent personalities invited to the congress on Latin American integration are U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy, Willy Brandt, Indira Chandi, Margaret Thatcher, Victor Raul Haya de la Torre, coordinator of the event Luis Lopez and delegates of the Nicaraguan Sandinist National Liberation Front. Colombia, Mexico, Surinam, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and other countries are members of the Latin American Parliament. The invitations were extended by Gilberto Avila Botta, a congressman and president of the Latin American Parliament.

BORDER AREAS TO RECEIVE ECONOMIC, CULTURAL ASSISTANCE

PA211955 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish [illegible] GMT 21 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--The government has announced that the areas bordering Brazil and Peru will be given economic, cultural and social assistance.

Eduardo (Biesner), chief of the National Planning Department, has announced that this year Colombia will invest 10 billion pesos for the improvement of that region.

The Colombian-Brazilian border is 1,645 km long. Colombia's border with Peru extends for 1,626 km. According to some congressmen, these border areas have been quite neglected. The planning official announced that projects will be implemented to improve industrial and educational infrastructures for the benefit of approximately 700,000 persons, most of whom are Indians.

Leticia, the capital of the Amazonas Intendancy [as heard], located on the border with Brazil, will receive Colombian television signals by the middle of the year. Until now Leticia, with a population of 6,285 persons, has received television signals only from Brazil and it trades with that nation by way of the Amazon River. Leticia will also receive telephone service. Other Indian towns will be given schools and better electrical services.

FARC AMBUSH LEAVES SEVEN SOLDIERS DEAD, THREE WOUNDED

PA190207 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--The army command confirmed today that seven soldiers were killed and three were seriously wounded during an ambush of a patrol of the Military Institutes Brigade. Official sources said that the attack occurred at noon in Corinto, located between the municipalities of Yacopi and Las Palmas, Cundinamarca Department.

According to the Press and Information Office of San Carlos Palace, the attack was perpetrated by guerrillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC]. The official reports indicate that the soldiers, led by an officer and a noncommissioned officer, were traveling in a truck when it exploded as it hit a mine that had been placed on the road. The soldiers were returning from retrieving firewood for their garrison when members of the Fourth Front of the FARC machinegunned them.

The soldiers repelled the attack but they apparently did not cause any casualties among the guerrillas, who fled after the action.

Police and army forces have arrived in Yacopi to reinforce the troops and to begin pursuit of the guerrillas.

EPL GUERRILLA GROUP TAKES OVER STATION, AIRS SLOGANS

PA201422 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0242 GMT 20 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Armenia, Colombia, (?19) Jan (EFE)--A guerrilla commando group occupied the radio station Radio Estrella in this city for 10 minutes today and, after overpowering the employees, transmitted a recording containing revolutionary slogans. A police spokesman said that the subversive group identified itself as belonging to an urban Popular Liberation Army [EPL] cell.

The guerrillas locked the radio station employees in a bathroom and then activated the controls and played a recording of instructions for "the revolution." The army and police are conducting a combined operation in the city to try to locate the guerrilla commando group.

THREE M-19 MEMBERS ARRESTED, WEAPONS SEIZED IN RAIDS

PA200306 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--The National Defense Ministry today announced new arrests and the seizure of more firearms in connection with the investigation of the subversive M-19 movement. A communique released tonight by the presidential press office states that as a result of new raids, 3 persons were arrested and 3 rifles, 9 revolvers, 8 grenades, 800 G-3 cartridges, 4 canisters of paralyzing gas, 3 bags of plastic explosives, M-19 flags, 18 M-19 caps, 54 camouflaged uniforms, 4 mimeographs stolen from the [name indistinct] company on 8 November, 1 6-passenger Renault car and valuable documents were seized yesterday and today as a result of the continuing raids.

The majority of the persons arrested by the army in connection with the investigation of the subversive M-19 movement were transferred to the military police battalion today. This includes almost all of the persons who were being held at the cavalry battalion located next to the Military Institutes Brigade. It was reported that all those against whom arrest warrants have been issued will be turned over to the national Modelo Prison tomorrow.

More than 100 men and women are being processed for the theft of 5,000 firearms from the army; the kidnaping of Juan Nicolas Escobar Soto, manager of the Texas Oil Company of Colombia; and other illegal activities.

BRIEFS

LIBERAL PARTY CONVENTION--The National Liberal Party will hold a convention in Bogota on 9 March this year at the Elliptic Hall in the capitol. The convention will be attended by Liberal Party congressmen and delegates from other organizations, including students, workers, peasants, economic circles and the media. [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Jan 79 PA]

DECISION TO TRANSFER POWER REAFFIRMED BY GOVERNMENT

PA200259 Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Jan 79 PA

[Text] The Government Ministry has just released the following press communique:

The Government Ministry has full knowledge that meetings are being held by representatives of certain sectors which are plotting against the country's legal reorganization plan in an effort to formulate maneuvers and to take political advantage of the murder of economist Abdon Calderon for the purposes of mocking the popular sovereignty and putting an end to the democratic way outlined by the armed forces government.

The armed forces have clearly expressed the decision to take the country's legal reorganization plan to a happy ending on 10 August 1979, the day on which the Supreme Council of Government will turn power over to the president elected by popular vote. Under these circumstances, the maneuvers and the spending of large sums of money by these enemies of democracy will serve no purpose.

GOVERNMENT DECREE AMENDS ELECTION LAW

PA200334 Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Jan 79 PA

[Text] The Supreme Council of Government issued decree No 3182 tonight to amend the election law. In regard to several aspects about which there had been expectation, especially concerning requirements for becoming a member of the National House of Representatives, the law has not been changed, has not been renovated.

Article 47, Paragraph B states: To become a member of the National House of Representatives, one must be Ecuadorean by birth, have full citizenship rights, be at least 25 years of age on election day, be a member of a legally recognized political party and be sponsored by that party. To become a provincial representative, one must have been born in the respective province or must have lived continuously in that province for at least 3 years prior to being elected.

Paragraph B 1 states that the following cannot become members of the National House of Representatives--we list the principal impediments: Government employees and, in general, anyone receiving a salary from the national treasury. In this case, all teachers employed by the government are barred from participating in the election for national representatives. Another impediment is listed in Paragraph C of the amended law: Debtors of the development banking system whose loans have been penalized [castigado]; those who personally or as representatives of companies have contracts with the government; the ministers of any cult, etc.; the legal representatives of foreign companies up to 6 months prior to the election; and those who are barred by other legal provisions.

These are the most important points we can give you at this time.

Further Changes Reported

PA230419 Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Political parties will not be able to annul their votes. According to the latest reforms made to the electoral law by the Supreme Council of Government, no political party will be able to instruct its members to annul their votes.

Therefore, citizens will have to choose between the two tickets during the coming presidential elections. The two candidates are Roldos Hurtado and Duran Icaza.

In regard to legislative elections, citizens will be able to vote for the ticket of the respective political party so that the Chamber of Representatives can be organized. Parties which have not presented their tickets for legislators must present them, since the deadline to register the lists with the Supreme Electoral Tribunal and with the provincial electoral tribunals is 7 February.

FORMER GOVERNMENT MINISTER TO BE SUMMONED IN CALDERON CASE

PA201648 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 20 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Yesterday, a 10th Criminal Court judge included former Government Minister Bolivar Jarrin in the hearing on the death of Abdon Calderon Munoz and ordered that he be summoned to the capital, where his plea will be sent. The office of the secretary to the Court of Justice is preparing the plea, which will be sent to Quito, to the Pichincha Province criminal [word indistinct], information chief for Guayaquil, so that he may personally summon the former government minister at his own home and deliver the summons and a copy of the writ of inquiry and the hearing, giving Bolivar Jarrin the time the law establishes for him to respond to the charges, a copy of which will also be given to him.

Requests Military Trial

PA211938 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 21 Jan 79 PA

[Excerpt] Former Government Minister Gen Bolivar Jarrin, who is accused of masterminding the assassination of former presidential candidate Abdon Calderon Munos, has broken his silence and through his lawyer has asked the 10th penal judge of Guayaquil to abstain from further hearing his case. He has also asked in his plea that the judge remit the case to the Court of Military Justice because he feels it is the appropriate court to try him. General Jarrin will be put on standby [disponibilidad] status by a Defense Ministry executive decree at the request of the army command because he is subjudice, the morning newspaper EL UNIVERSO of Guayaquil said yesterday in an exclusive report.

ALLEGED CALDERON ASSASSINATION PLOTTER LEAVES COUNTRY

PA191546 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 19 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Prof Carlos Alberto Munoz Alarcon, another of the persons implicated in the assassination of Abdon Calderon, the national director of the Alfarist Radical Front, left the country a few days ago for Colombia after obtaining a passport in Manabi Province. Munoz Alarcon, whose name was unwittingly omitted from the list of persons accused in the assassination, has not been seen in this city since the shooting of the already mentioned political leader. The Education Ministry has dismissed him from his post as professor in a Guayaquil public school. While it is true that Munoz, like Abel Salazar, was not present when the crime was committed, the Guayas criminal investigation department has accused him of being another of those responsible for the death of Calderon, since not only did he know what was going to happen, but he was also one of the plotters of the assassination.

U.S. CONSUL ACCUSED OF OBSTRUCTING TRAVEL

PY191654 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 19 Jan 79 p 10 PY

[Text] The U.S. Embassy in Asuncion is presumably boycotting groups of Paraguayan tourists, especially Lineas Aereas Paraguayas (LAP) passengers.

For some time now we have been receiving repeated charges from persons who have had their trips to the northern country thwarted due to the numerous obstacles in their way when asking for a visa at the U.S. Embassy in our capital.

The most recent case regarding the problems which have emerged due to the obstacles created by the U.S. Consulate is that of seven persons whose trip was thwarted. They belong to a group of tourists who left yesterday for Miami without their passports having been visaed.

Among the problems encountered at the U.S. Consulate, mention can be made of the need for a third-person guarantee or verification of the enterprise for which they work, the personal interviews for which they had to make long peregrinations along the embassy's corridors and the repeated unkept promises of embassy officials. Another obstacle was that on the request for a visa they had put 18 January as the day of departure. On the other hand, the consul requested that the interview with these people be on 19 January, today.

In statements to our newspaper, those affected by the virtual boycott of the U.S. Embassy against LAP indicated the motives given by the consular officials: That LAP takes passengers away from other international carriers and that Paraguayans are irresponsible when submitting their documentation. It was also said at the embassy that during recent times two families escaped from excursions made to the United States. They also gave as a motive the low pay which the consuls and the section's personnel get in relation to the arduous task of stamping visas in the passports of Paraguayan tourists who travel to the United States.

Finally, those affected persons agreed that the major bureaucratic obstacles come directly from the consul of the U.S. Embassy in our country.

ABC COLOR CALLS FOR POLICE PROCEDURE CHANGES

PY201719 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 20 Jan 79 p 12 PY

[Editorial: "The True Enemy of Peace"]

[Text] The procedure mounted day before yesterday by personnel of the investigations department of the police of the capital, raiding property, detaining people and beating up newsmen, while stating that "the police are inviolate," belongs to the type of events which leave the public perplexed.

And it is also the most perfect justification for those who maintain that there is material progress in Paraguay, while we make no advancement in the field of democracy and respect for individuals.

If those police officials deliberately intended to break all the laws of the country and show people at home and abroad what they understand by exercise of power, we are quite convinced that they have achieved their purpose. But if we add the question of whether this serves the government of those who are making an effort in government position to build a better Paraguay, we can assert that in fact they undermine the foundations of the very order they should defend.

The manner in which the operation was carried out has succeeded in creating resentment against authority among a number of people, and those who yesterday were peacefully carrying placards in support of the president will now be pondering the treatment given to members of the government party.

Paraguayan society demands protection from violation, under the pretext of finding subversives, of all the rights granted by the constitution, such as the freedom of assembly or public expression, the right to travel, the freedom of ideas and the freedom in which we are particularly interested: that of reporting without coercion on events occurring in Paraguay.

In this connection, however, the communique released by the headquarters of the police investigations department, which we publish in today's issue, certainly does not contribute to improving the situation. On the contrary, it increases the irritation of the public by trying to maintain the difficult position of having a monopoly on truth in the case in question. Truth will not be made to emerge by means of statements contradicting that which the detained citizens have concordantly and publicly asserted.

Furthermore, civic culture in this country has reached a sufficiently high level to prevent favorable allusions on placards--whether to the pope, nationalism or the armed forces--from causing confusion which distorts truth, as asserted in the communique just referred to.

Continuing the same line of thought, we asserted that it is not appropriate to refer to "sensationalist" reporting, while newsmen accuse the police of having insulted and abused them when doing their duty. This serious event cannot end with communiques containing statements of dubious veracity.

When events reach this stage the only thing to do is to categorically assert that all of us expect for the new Paraguay a clear correction of this type of conduct, a true enemy of peace.

POLICE GIVE THEIR VERSION OF ARREST INCIDENTS

PY230113 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 20 Jan 79 p 5 PY

[Text] In view of the reports and communiques published in the press yesterday, the public relations offic of the police investigations department reports:

1. Security circles took note of a demonstration held in front of the criminal courts building in which placards with surprisingly similar content were used, their having been brought by people in a vehicle. This fact presumably points to the existence of a well organized plan for agitation for stirring up public opinion and for diverting attention from personal matters, the investigation of which has calmly been undertaken by the competent authorities, in order to direct it against the institutions which are charged with keeping public order, the security of the people and their property.

2. The writing on the placards was inconsistent with the motives which were said to be related to a court case, such as references to the "pope, the armed forces, nationalism and the church," etc, with the evident purpose of distorting the public's viewpoint and introducing inadmissable elements of pressure and lack of confidence in a judicial matter by people of dubious representation.

3. The state of siege, in force in the capital in accordance with Article 79 of the constitution, has been established for the constitution's defense and the defense of the authorities created in accordance with it, establishing that while it is in force public meetings and demonstrations may be banned and can be held only with appropriate police permission, leaving the preservation of public order in the hands of the police (Article 45 of the constitution).

4. Due to the peacefulness of the above mentioned demonstration, and in order to preserve order and respect for the judicial sector, which took no notice of the event, immediate measures were not taken but measures were taken to identify those responsible for organizing the demonstration and to determine their motives in order to preserve public order, the police's specific function.

5. Once the place where the placards had been made and afterward stored had been identified, a court order, issued by the recess duty judge in charge of the criminal court of first instance, was obtained for the confiscation of the placards. This was duly done. Afterward a report was received that a group of persons was meeting in the same place and it was also reported that more people were arriving at the meeting, it being noted also that there were people directing the meeting.

The local police precinct was contacted and it was reported that to the precinct's knowledge no permission had been given for the meeting, therefore it was again decided to send personnel to the place in order to determine who was or were in charge of the meeting and its motives, seeking to preserve public order. The three officers were received with hostility and even violence, such as is reported in the medical certificate regarding the lacerations received by first class police inspector Obdulio Arguello, which states: "Multiple lacerations and grazes on the back of the right hand. A 3-centimeter bruise on the right arm, pain and a bruise in the right pectoral region."

In these circumstances the personnel, who numbered three and were outnumbered, proceeded to detain the promoters of the disorder which originated from what should have been a routine procedure of verifying who was there and for what reason.

Regrettably, three reporters were at the meeting (which smacks of premeditation) who could not be identified in the melee by the personnel and for this reason they were transported in the same vehicle as the other people.

6. This public relations office of the police investigations department is fully aware that the reporters were carrying out a mission, that of reporting, and as such the reporters, once they were identified, were immediatly released and treated, the same as the other people, with utmost correctness. It must be noted that while they resorted to the press and while their intent was so clear, according to their statements, those who held the meeting did not request the appropriate police permission which is obligatory for all public meetings, no matter what the purpose.

7. Regarding the sensationalist reportage of the newspaper HOY, this office also feels that it is its duty to report that the shot which was fired into the air was fired while inspector Arguello was being attacked by several persons who ceased their attack when they heard the shot, thus preventing matters from becoming worse. It was at this time that Arguello received the lacerations mentioned in the medical report.

8. The public, in view of the events, can thus calmly and impartially judge and evaluate what has happened.

OFFICIALS COMMENT ON PARANA TALKS IN BRASILIA

FY182240 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1955 GMT 18 Jan 79 FY

[Text] Asuncion, 18 Jan (LATIN)--Foreign Minister Alberto Nogues has stated that there has been no proposal from either Brazil or Argentina to renew the trilateral talks to regularize the Itaipu and Corpus hydroelectric plants on the Parana River. This was Nogues' comment on the bilateral talks which began today in Brasilia between Foreign Minister Antonio Azeredo da Silveira and Argentine envoy Horacio Colombo.

Paraguay is open to the resumption of the trilateral talks, the foreign minister added, emphasizing the positive spirit of the Paraguayan delegation. Nogues stated: Paraguay is always ready to negotiate in an integrationist and procontinental spirit. Only the date and place have to be set and we will be there.

Enzo DeBernardi, principal Paraguayan negotiator on hydroelectric issues, said that Paraguay was not excluded from the Brasilia meeting. He added: The precedent in these cases has been that talks between two parties pave the way for a meeting of the three parties.

DeBernardi stated that, in any case, no final decision can be made without the presence of the three parties and reiterated that Paraguay was not excluded from the Brasilia negotiations. The official also emphasized that Paraguay believes that the Corpus hydroelectric plant should be built because of the tremendous impact it would have on development, benefiting the entire Parana region in which it will be located.

The Paraguayan position on this issue is that Corpus should have a maximum waterhead of 105 meters so that it will not damage the energy-generating capacity of the domestic rivers such as Monday and Nacunday. Both rivers run into the Parana and if the Corpus plant should have a waterhead greater than 105 meters, it would be impossible to build smaller dams on those rivers. Argentina's initiative to renew the trilateral talks with Brazil caused surprise in this capital since this type of negotiation was expected in the first week of February.

NOGUES DISCUSSES DAMS WITH ARGENTINE DIPLOMAT

FY201458 Asuncion LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 20 Jan 79 p 4 FY

[Excerpt] "Paraguay has received with satisfaction the visit by the envoy from the Argentine Foreign Ministry," said Foreign Minister Alberto Nogues after the end of the meeting he had with Rear Adm Horacio Colombo, representative of the Argentine Foreign Ministry, sent to discuss the continuation of trilateral negotiations on the coordination of the Corpus and Itaipu hydroelectric projects. The meeting was also attended by the members of the Paraguayan negotiating team from earlier talks, Senator Carlos A. Saldival, Enzo DeBernardi and Rear Adm Guillermo Haywood. The meeting was also attended by the Argentine ambassador to this country, Sergio Novoa.

Regarding the results of the meeting, which lasted for about 1 and 1/2 hours, the Paraguayan foreign minister said that he could not give any opinion before reporting to the president on all that had been discussed on the occasion.

Admiral Colombo had said, however, when he arrived at the airport of this capital, that he brought a specific proposal from the Argentine Foreign Ministry to the Paraguayan Government regarding continuation of the talks on exploitation of Parana River energy.

PRIME MINISTER DENIES CUBAN LOAN OF MIGS

PA212214 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1948 GMT 21 Jan 79 PA

[Excerpt] Lima, 21 Jan (EFE)--Gen Oscar Molina, Peru's prime minister and minister of war, today denied that Cuba has loaned 12 Soviet "MiG-21" supersonic planes to the Peruvian Air Force.

Molina denied a report which appeared in the latest issue of Lima's CARETAS magazine. The magazine analyzed the potential of Peru's air force and compared it with that of Chile in view of the espionage actions that were revealed recently. General Molina, who is also the army's general commander and a member of the government junta, described the magazine statement on the Cuban MiGs as "a great lie."

CARETAS said that the Peruvian Air Force had promised to purchase the planes on loan in the event of a conflict, and that these planes are currently included in its 67-unit supersonic plane wing.

MAGAZINE SAYS DATE FOR TRANSFER OF POWER MOVED FORWARD

PA222152 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1856 GMT 22 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 22 Jan (EFE)--The Peruvian military government and the major parties in the Constituent Assembly have apparently devised a new plan for transferring power to civilians following the failure of a nationwide strike promoted by the communist labor union and extreme leftists.

According to today's issue of the weekly OIGA, this new plan will bring the date of transfer forward from next year to December 1979. According to OIGA, under the plan the elections, which the Peruvian Government originally scheduled for 1980, would take place on 14 October of this year and the new civilian government would take office on 19 December.

The new plan, which was presented to the government on 15 January, provides for the present Peruvian Constituent Assembly to complete the drafting of the country's new constitution by next May and the supplementary regulations by June. In addition, the assembly also reportedly pledged to create a proper climate for holding general elections on the proposed day in October. The assembly also reportedly recognized the right of illiterates to vote. This would add 1.8 million persons to the almost 5 million persons who voted in the Constituent Assembly elections in June 1978.

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL POLICY

PA191230 Lima Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0012 GMT 19 Jan 79 PA

[Text] [No dateline] Foreign Minister De la Puente said today in Trujillo that if national dignity and our detente attempts are not reciprocated, Peru will reorient its international policy. We want peace, but not at any price, he said to newsmen who had asked him about the president's program for trips abroad for the present year.

"We believe," he said, "that in view of the pleasant trip made to Peru by General Videla in 1977, the president of the republic could reciprocate this visit some time. We believe it could take place this year, and we have recommended that. The president has not made a decision on this matter but is analyzing the recommendation and its relationship with our domestic policy and his responsibilities as chief of state."

De la Puente also said that President Morales Bermudez had been advised to attend a meeting of the Andean Group presidents in Cartagena.

Asked about the significance of these trips within the framework of Peru's foreign policy, De la Puente said that "naturally these visits are directly related to the country's international policy." He said that "this policy cannot be static; it must be dynamic, adjusted to our international situation and to the reactions produced by Peruvian attitudes in the international community. Therefore, if we do not receive adequate reciprocity, we adjust our actions to existing conditions and national interests. This procedure is very important because Peru's original orientation in a given international policy may not always have been understood. We must not confuse detente with peace at any price.

"The peace offered by Peru is conditional on national dignity. If it is threatened, even slightly, our foreign policy adjusts to the new situation so that Peru's interests are recognized and respected. This is why the program of visits and the general foreign policy plan are related to the dynamic attitude which the Foreign Ministry must assume.

"It is like advancing along a road: If one sees that it is not leading to the desired destination, another road is taken with the promptness and security that the procedure requires. Our international policy is not an island; it is related to the national situation and the government. I believe that it is very important to note this reorientation whenever it is advisable."

The foreign minister added that "therefore, and in relation to everything I have said, there is a relationship with the Foreign Ministry recommendations in regard to the president's possible trips abroad. We believe that these recommendations serve the national interest under a point of view influenced not only by the existing situation but also by certain international attitudes known to all and about which we have expressed our opinion with the energy that the circumstances demanded."

GOVERNMENT PROTESTS ECUADOREAN TORTURE OF PERUVIANS

PA211729 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1301 GMT 21 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 21 Jan (LATIN)--It was officially reported here today that the Peruvian Government has presented a "strong protest" to the Government of Ecuador because of the tortures inflicted on seven Peruvians in an Ecuadorean military installation. A Peruvian Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the protest was contained in an official document presented to the Ecuadorean Foreign Ministry by Peruvian diplomatic representatives in that country.

The spokesman noted that once it was verified that the torture charges were true, the government proceeded to make a strong written protest. He said that the torture charges will continue to be investigated "until we obtain the explanation and the apologies that the case demands."

The spokesman said that the Peruvians were tortured on grounds that they had purchased arms in a military compound. He noted that the victims reported the case to Peru's consul in Machala, and later to the police department in Tumbes, a city on the border with Ecuador.

The events took place a few days ago in Machala, in a military barrack located on the Huayas farm. The incident was reported yesterday by the Lima daily CORREO.

PRESIDENT PEREZ DEFENDS OPEC, OIL PRICE INCREASE

PA201359 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1855 GMT 19 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 19 Jan (LATIN)--Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez todsy defended OPEC and said that its negotiating power has been used at international economic forums for the benefit of developing countries. He noted that to describe OPEC as an oppressive power in the world's economy--such as imperialism, which has profited from and still profits from the resources of other countries--is bewildering and unfair.

The Venezuelan president made his statements in a letter sent to Roberto Garcia-Pena, director of Bogota's EL TIEMPO newspaper, in reference to editorial comments published in that newspaper. He said that the editorials on oil and the Jamaica conference alarmed him because they contradict the admirable conduct of the Latin American press in this long and hard struggle which we are carrying on in view of the lack of understanding, selfishness and arrogance displayed by the wealthy nations. This contradictory position diminishes the prestige of the Latin American press. He said that, among other tactics, the wealthy nations use the manipulation of news to confuse, misinform and divide us and to place us at odds with the Third World countries.

Perez said that the OPEC countries are developing nations that depend on a nonrenewable resource which, despite its importance to the world's economy, has been irresponsibly squandered. He added that OPEC's action, in a merely commercial sense, is one of defending itself in view of an adverse economic situation which affects the main interests of its member countries because of the inflation generated by the industrialized countries and the continuous devaluation of the dollar, the currency we use to set the prices of and collect for the petroleum we sell.

The president recalled in his letter to EL TIEMPO that the oil prices had not been changed over the past 2 years, while the price of manufactured goods continuously increased. "The purchasing power of a barrel of oil decreased by 40 percent in the 2 years in which oil prices were frozen, and by 10 percent in 1979 alone," he stated.

He said he was pleased to see that the action taken by the coffee-, bauxite- and phosphorus-producing countries "has been equally concentrated on the defense of the purchasing power of their products, thus confronting the powerful industrialized countries, which manipulate the prices of raw materials unscrupulously." He cited Colombia's efforts to defend coffee prices and said that "the expressed intention of the industrialized nations is to reduce the price of a quintal of coffee to less than $100. He said that while 43 quintals of coffee were needed to purchase a truck in 1976, 61 quintals of coffee were needed for the same transaction in 1978.

"Petroleum's advantage is that it is the only raw material whose price is set by developing countries and the only raw material the industrialized countries cannot do without," he said. "Consequently," he added, "petroleum is an instrument of negotiation to create exchange relations that are fair and balanced in regard to the price of labor and raw material of the South and the price of labor, manufactured products and capital goods of the North."

He said that the role of oil has been and is to make the dialog possible, to seat the great nations around the North-South discussion table. He added that OPEC has used its negotiating power at international economic forums for the benefit of developing countries with the common purpose of achieving the establishment of a new international economic order. A notable example in this regard, the president said, has been OPEC's decided support for the joint effort being made to implement, mainly through the establishment of a common fund, the integrated program for basic products through the UNCTAD.

"I have no doubts about the fact that the oil price increase does add to the cost of development in the countries which do not have it. It is an obstacle in obtaining indispensable energy and makes the economic growth of developing countries dependent on it," he said. However, he added: "The dramatic experience of the energy crisis and OPEC's action have opened the paths for dialog and the possibilities for an understanding."

"But petroleum is in no way responsible for worldwide inflation and economic maladjustment. It is also not responsible for the serious difficulties of the Third World countries," he said. He added that if the price of coffee or sugar had remained at the 1976 level or close to it and if manufactured goods and capital goods had maintained a balanced equilibrium in relation to the price of our raw materials, Colombia would not be facing new economic problems and oil prices would not have increased.

"In conclusion," Perez said, "what the industrialized nations are trying to do is to maintain growing prosperity at our expense, as happened up until the 1960s, when their economies were subsidized by the raw materials and labor of our countries, which were bought at low prices. Their products were correspondingly sold at increasingly higher prices." This situation has a name which does not have to be repeated at this time when we are committed to negotiations in which the industrialized countries have given the initial signs of understanding mankind's serious crisis, a crisis that is much more onerous than any price that could be paid at the present time. "One can understand this even less because its correction will result in benefits for the North and South alike," the Venezuelan president concluded.

FOREIGN MINISTER CONSALVI COMMENTS ON SOMOZA REGIME

PA190017 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 16 Jan 79 pp 2, 19 PA

[Article by Gumersindo Villasana]

[Text] Maiquetia, 15 Jan--Foreign Minister Dr Simon Alberto Consalvi said in reply to a question about Nicaragua that the Venezuelan Government believes that the OAS must study the report of its human rights commission and not delay so much.

A report of this kind has never been made in Latin America before. The violations reported have been alarming not only in regard to human rights violations, but also as they describe a genocide, a massive destruction of human life.

This is why, he continued, Venezuela does not understand why the OAS does not make a decision on the matter. We hope that such a decision will be made next week.

In reply to a question made by this reporter regarding Somoza's charges against Venezuela and other countries, Dr Consalvi said: Somoza must say this because he cannot say anything else. However, Nicaragua has no international commitments compelling it to respect human rights, so it is not a matter of Venezuelan intervention. Our country is merely in solidarity with the people of Nicaragua, who have requested the intervention of organizations such as the OAS, the United Nations and the Inter-American Human Rights Commission.

If it is a case of Venezuelan intervention, he said in conclusion, then I ask: Why was the human rights commission created? There is no precedent in Latin America similar to the cruelty used by the Somoza regime against the Nicaraguan people. The cruelty has gone to the extent that 5,000 persons were killed in September and the killing and repression have continued since then.

SALVADORAN PRESIDENT HOLDS NEWS CONFERENCE, SIGNS AGREEMENT

Reception For President Romero

PA191351 Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0400 GMT 19 Jan 79 PA

[Text] President Jose Lopez-Portillo said today that for peace in Latin America it is necessary to change the socially unjust structures which keep people submerged in poverty, bondage and disease.

During the reception which the Mexican Government held at the Foreign Secretariat in honor of Salvadoran President Col Carlos Humberto Romero, the chief executive said to achieve peace means to make people of America active and democratic societies which are free and which enjoy complete social justice. [Words indistinct] social and economic justice. In addition, the president said that he is convinced that Latin America desires democracy, the affirmation of its autonomy and freedom.

For his part, the president of El Salvador said that America is the continent of hope and, for this reason, he said, we must establish rules for accelerating the development of our peoples. The Salvadoran president added that Mexico and El Salvador both reject foreign interference and forms of aid which presuppose intervention in the internal affairs of the two countries. There should be no foreign political pressure in our economic affairs, and even less should there be economic pressure in our political affairs, he said.

Before the reception began, the two presidents and their wives exchanged gifts in the lobby of the Foreign Secretariat. The two presidents were accompanied by officials of the Mexican and Salvadoran governments.

Economic Cooperation Agreement Concluded

PA201730 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0134 GMT 20 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 19 Jan (EFE)--The Salvadoran and Mexican governments today concluded a wide-ranging cooperation agreement covering several economic areas, the Mexican Foreign Secretariat reported here. The areas covered by the agreement are trade, transportation, industry, technology and financing, the source said. The agreement was signed by Mexican Foreign Secretary Santiago Roel and Salvadoran Foreign Minister Jose Antonio Rodriguez Porth at the Mexican Foreign Secretariat.

A mechanism will be established to expand trade and to promote more balanced trade between the two countries. Mexican officials had conferred with the governments of the Central American countries about the agreement. El Salvador submitted a list of products which may be sold in this country and for which the Mexican Government will grant import and promotion facilities. As far as transportation is concerned, El Salvador has made a proposal to promote trade along Mexico's southern border which would make it possible to increase supplies to the area. Once a review of the Salvadoran proposal is completed, officials of the Mexican Foreign Secretariat and the Salvadoran Foreign Ministry will meet in Tapachula (Chiapas State). A Guatemalan delegation will be invited to participate.

In regard to financing, Mexico will help to solve problems in developing urban areas and tourist centers. The plans include the joint construction of a nixtamal [type of corn product] processing plant.

In the technological and industrial fields, the agreement provides for the construction of industrial complexes and hotels. A project to develop the deep sea fishing industry in El Salvador will also be reviewed.

Financial assistance will be extended to the agricultural and cattle raising fields and exports in the form of financing and guarantees for the small- and medium-sized industry.

The document released by the Foreign Secretariat recognizes the need to create a bilateral high-level economic cooperation commission for implementation of the agreement.

Romero Announces Oil Sale Talks

PA201731 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0310 GMT 20 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 19 Jan (EFE)--El Salvador and Mexico today agreed here to hold formal negotiations for the sale of 20,000 barrels of crude oil, Salvadoran President Carlos Humberto Romero announced during a news conference. Romero said that the agreement was reached during a meeting he held today with Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo. Formal talks in that connection will open here within 3 weeks, it was announced at the news conference.

Romero said that he also discussed with Lopez-Portillo the problem of the fertilizer plant owned by the Mexican firm Fertica in El Salvador. The presidential meeting also dealt with cooperation between the two countries in the fields of social security, airport development and fishing, as well as the possibility of establishing the Mexican system of "rolling markets" in El Salvador.

The Salvadoran president, who arrived yesterday in Mexico and will leave tomorrow at the conclusion of his official visit, held the news conference after the two countries signed an economic cooperation agreement. The agreement provides for the creation of a joint economic cooperation commission and sets into motion a mechanism that had been previously agreed upon to promote Salvadoran exports to Mexico.

The document also notes that studies have already begun to establish a corn processing plant in El Salvador with Mexican cooperation and to consider the possibility of Mexico selling buses to El Salvador. It also mentions the possibility of cooperation in the fields of fishing, small- and medium-sized industries and airports as well as the possible construction of a port in El Salvador.

The issuance of a previously announced joint communique will be postponed until tomorrow, Saturday, when Romero is scheduled to leave.

Salvadoran President Sees Cuban 'Threat'

PA202314 Paris AFP in Spanish 0246 GMT 20 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 19 Jan (AFP)--Cuba is a serious threat to democracy in America, Salvadoran President Carlos Humberto Romero said here today on the second day of his official visit to Mexico. Romero made the statement during a news conference held at the hotel where he is staying in Mexico City. He added that the Cuban regime has been in power for 20 years without holding democratic elections and without permitting the slightest opposition. On the other hand, the countries which are criticized by the communists practice alternation in power, he said. The democratic governments of America are worried by the threat of terrorism in their respective countries which is instigated by Castro's government, the Salvadoran president added.

Romero on Human Rights in El Salvador

PA202315 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0319 GMT 20 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 19 Jan (EFE)--Salvadoran President Carlos Humberto Romero said here today that his government respects human rights and that charges to the contrary are part of a "global campaign" to discredit his country. In a news conference, President Romero also rejected the charge that there are political prisoners and missing persons in his country by stating that the prisoners are accused of common crimes and that the missing persons are outside the country, are being tried by civilian courts or are in their homes.

Together with his foreign minister, Jose Antonio Rodriguez, President Romero said that not all Salvadoran clergymen are against his government and labeled as "false" the charge that there is religious persecution in his country. Romero held the news conference in a Mexico City hotel.

He said that "on my honor," the government has not sent "a single man or a single grain of gunpowder" to help Gen Anastasio Somoza's regime in Nicaragua.

Romero said that the occupation of the Mexican Embassy in San Salvador this week was a violent incident staged to compel him not to go to Mexico. On the group of 34 men and women who occupied the embassy and who then asked for asylum, he said that he expects the safe-conducts to reach the Mexican Embassy by Saturday morning.

Romero defended military governments by stating that the soldiers are not opposed to social changes but to the violent means by which some groups want to attain them. He differentiated between a military regime and a government headed by a soldier with a civilian administration which, he said, is the case in El Salvador. He said that one cannot negotiate with guerrillas and that he would ask Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo to present the guerrillas who occupied the embassy to the press after they arrive in Mexico, adding that one of the guerrillas is a 13-year-old boy.

During the news conference, the Salvadoran foreign minister announed that he will go to Lima on Sunday to meet with the Honduran foreign minister and the commission that is mediating for a solution of the border conflict between the two countries. He said that for the time being, the talks are at the "oral" stage and declined to give an opinion as to how soon a solution would be reached.

JOINT OPERATION WITH GUATEMALA IN SEARCH OF GUERRILLAS

PA191444 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0119 GMT 19 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Jan (EFE)--Mexican troops are collaborating with the Guatemalan Army in hunting for guerrilla groups in the border area, it was revealed here today.

The newspaper ULTIMAS NOTICIAS DE EXCELSIOR, in a dispatch datelined Comitan, a village located near the Mexican-Guatemalan border, reported that the Mexican cooperation is being received as part of Guatemala's Operation Rabbit [Operacion Conejo]. Through this operation, the Guatemalan Army is forcing guerrillas to withdraw into the jungle in the Mexican State of Chiapas, where Mexican troops are waiting for them.

The report said that the military unit assigned by Mexico for this task is the 24th Cavalry Regiment, under the command of Gen Felix Tapia, who since December has had his headquarters near Comitan.

ROYO SAYS FOREIGN TRADE SHOULD NOT BE BASED ON IDEOLOGY

PA102232 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 10 Jan 79 pp 1, 14 PA

[Article by Luis Castilla-Bravo]

[Text] Cerro Punta, Panama--During his meeting with leaders of the agricultural and livestock sector of Chiriqui Province, President Aristides Royo said that we do not agree with the rejection of trade and relations with countries because of ideological reasons. We believe, he indicated, that we must make utmost use of the best of each big country. He added that we will reject those which try to impose ideologies on us. President Royo said that the correct attitude should be one aimed at having trade relations with those countries which help us the most, independent of their ideological positions. We should respect their ideology and they should respect ours, he said.

President Royo was accompanied by Vice President Ricardo de la Espriella, Agriculture Development Minister Alfredo Oranges Bustos and the rest of the ministerial team. He discussed the problems of Chiriqui producers, indicating that this government has the goal of incorporating more people into production. He added that he also seeks an equilibrium in prices through serious and rational studies. Royo said that he will work so that the increase in fuel prices will have the least possible effect since the government is able to absorb the increase, as has been requested.

ROYO, ORTEGA DISCUSS LABOR ISSUES; WORKERS PICKET MEETING

Ortega on Chiriqui Labor Problems

PA201451 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 19 Jan 79 PA

[Text] The last day of the work tour of Chiriqui by the government team headed by President Aristides Royo ended today with a labor demonstration in front of the House of Culture [in David]. The demonstration was headed by construction union workers who are working at the petroleum transshipment port in Puerto Armuelles. The workers carried a large number of placards criticizing Labor Minister Oyden Ortega. The members of the Single National Union of Construction Workers and Workers in Related Trades [SUNTRACS] have gone on strike for the third time without waiting for the official decision as established in Law 95. The workers are blaming everything on Minister Ortega. The picketing was observed by the labor minister and other officials who also participated in the meeting at the House of Culture.

The meeting with the labor leaders began shortly afterward. Ten union leaders spoke on behalf of the workers. The meeting began at 1030, 30 minutes behind schedule. Chiriqui Province Governor Alfredo Macharaviaya, Gerardo Gonzalez and other government officials attended the meeting.

The union leaders questioned the government's policy and criticized the low wages, particularly in Chiriqui Province. Besides a general overview of labor problems, there was a discussion of the problem involving the Tellepsen Pan-American Company and the SUNTRACS workers, who demanded the participation of Labor Minister Oyden Ortega.

At the meeting at the House of Culture, Chiriqui Governor Alfredo Macharaviaya referred to the situation of the workers in Puerto Armuelles: [Begin Macharaviaya recording] That is not true. As governor of the province, I have received reports from the National Guard and the mayor of Puerto Armuelles. Only four persons were arrested. Three of them were transferred from the National Guard and placed under the supervision of the mayor.

They were only under arrest for the time necessary to transfer them from the National Guard to the mayor. These persons were not arrested for being union members or leaders. They were arrested for throwing rocks at a National Guard officer. [end recording]

Following the statements by the Chiriqui governor, Labor Minister Oyden Ortega explained the government's position on labor problems and, specifically, on the dispute at the Tellepsen Pan-American Company. [Begin Ortega recording] As soon as we took office our ministry, particularly I as minister, assumed the responsibility of watching over labor disputes, keeping ourselves informed and actively participating in their solution. Our position gives us the authority to decide on the best solution. We have tried to obtain the best solution to labor problems. This is so in the case of the Tellepsen Company--and not only in the first strike. It is important that citizens know that since March 1978--a little less than 10 months--SUNTRAC$ has decreed 16 strikes in Chiriqui Province. In view of our country's economic situation, we would be very irresponsible if we did not create the conditions--by education if necessary--to prevent these situations. They harm not only the union movement but the workers of the country. We are not only the ministry for currently employed workers. We have to watch over the economic situation of our country, over the 60,000 unemployed throughout the country who demand a very well-defined position from ministerial authorities. So when we speak of these things, we have to think calmly, objectively and frankly. We cannot stop supporting the workers. We cannot let enterprise abuse the workers. We have to create the conditions for mutual respect so that labor relations will be carried out with respect for the workers' achievements and with the awareness that there is a ministry that will deal with these problems. When we speak of the disputes at Puerto Armuelles, we think of an investment of more than $250 million in the petroleum transshipment operation there. A similar operation through the United States would have been too costly so investors wanted to invest in Panama because we have the conditions suitable for the operation. We are talking about more than 500 jobs. We are talking about an investment of millions of dollars. We are talking about a large amount of taxes that would be obtained for the national government. But this does not mean that the minister's position is probusiness, that we will permit the enterprise to commit abuses against the union and workers. That is why in these strikes we have clearly stated our position to the management and to the workers. [end recording]

Royo Addresses Labor Leaders

PA201513 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 19 Jan 79 PA

[Excerpt of speech by Panamanian President Aristides Royo at meeting with labor leaders at the House of Culture in David, Chiriqui, on 19 January--recorded]

[Text] I think that Labor Minister Ortega has expressed the government's labor policy. It is not a policy against the workers, nor is it a policy against business. In the speeches we have been delivering at various public events since 11 October, we have said that we want private enterprise to invest in this country just as the state is investing and that we want the legitimate rights of the workers to be protected. This does not mean that we do not have to improve our labor policies, to redesign and strengthen them. This is a task that we can do together.

I think that if there has been a government in this country's history which has taken up common cause with the Panamanian worker a thousand times, it has been the government that began on 11 October 1968. This has led to criticism by other sectors. This process has been able to do many things due to the support of the labor masses. I repeat that this does not mean that this government is an enemy of private investment. We believe in the protection of the workers' rights. We also want private investment. How then do we regulate this situation? On the basis of an understanding.

We believe this is possible through an understanding among government, private enterprise and the workers. We have always sought this. Wherever there are problems, we will seek solutions.

We have also sought to have good labor relations between government workers and the state entities and enterprises. I want to clarify here that those state enterprises have not been placed on sale by the government. This does not mean that it is impossible that the government might at some time consider it advisable to sell an enterprise and, with the return from the sale, create more enterprises. It is also not impossible that the government might promote the establishment of mixed enterprises. Therefore, the economy of our government has to be flexible and adaptable to our needs.

I would like to discuss here the subject of Law 95. We believe that dialog is possible among government, private enterprise and workers. That is why we established a National Labor Commission that included representatives of the three sectors--private enterprise, workers and government. They have equal representation: five for private enterprise, five for workers representating various unions--and I think the construction workers union is also represented there--and representatives of the government headed by the labor minister. Formulas are being proposed there. There are no calls for elimination of Law 95 or against the unstable status of workers. Formulas are being sought to satisfy both sides.

You have a legitimate concern because of the increase in the cost of living. You have a legitimate concern over the problem of wages. We have been in office 3 months. One of our objectives is to establish in this country a suitable policy for prices and wages. I do want to ask you to have a little confidence. We do not like to increase gasoline prices. Unfortunately, this country does not have petroleum. When some gentlemen in countries that do have petroleum decide to increase prices four times in 1 year, this naturally has to have an effect on the Panamanian economy. And when the production costs of many products in this country are affected by that increase in petroleum prices, by the worldwide inflation and recession, that also unfavorably affects the prices of articles and the national economy. That is why we have to struggle jointly to see how we can solve the crisis with a sense of sacrifice on the part of the businessmen, the workers and the government. I think we are beginning to show good examples of this.

This also means that there must be an attitude of understanding by the labor sectors regarding some measures the government has adopted and will have to adopt. A 5-percent sales tax is not pleasant but it provides us with funds that do not come from the petroleum, the uranium or iron that this country does not have. So if we want to build schools--even if high school enrollment is not free, as we would like--if we want to have ambulances, build health centers and improve services to the community, the state has to obtain funds from those sacrifices that are made when one pays the registration fee, when one buys an article and the 5-percent tax is paid. Therefore, in order that we may help the people we need the revenue that comes from taxes or tariffs that are not pleasant. I know that to ask for sacrifices from a class that has been historically making sacrifices is very difficult. Therefore, we are also asking the other sectors of the community to make sacrifices.

I want to conclude this dialog by making the following points: Continue to make known your aspirations; continue to struggle for your demands. The only thing I ask of you is to struggle without class hatred; struggle without viewing management as the worker's enemy; struggle thinking that you have a government in which you can trust. Some officials, some organizations and some laws might fail but this does not mean that we will not have a dialog, that we will not mutually support each other and that we will not try to develop this country. Thank you very much.

LIBERAL PARTY MEMBERS REJECT REGISTRATION OF PARTY

PA200402 Panama City Radio Hogar in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Jan 79 PA

[Letter sent to Liberal Party President David Samudio, read by National Director of the Liberal Party Manuel Vallerino during the "Commentarios y Opiniones del Profesor Don Lucho" program]

[Text] David Samudio Avila, president of the National Directorate of the National Liberal Party [PLN]
Panama, 19 January 1979

Engineer Samudio: As you are aware, in a letter dated 31 October 1978, which was delivered to you in mid-November, a considerable number of Liberal leaders and members of the National Directorate formally requested the convening of a special meeting of the PLN National Directorate in line with its bylaws to discuss the advantages or disadvantages of the registration of the PLN on the basis of the recently approved law. Since our request has been ignored so far, we feel we must make known to you and all Liberals the attached communique in which we summarize our point of view on a decision which will have deep effects on the future of the PLN and the country.

[Signed] Very truly yours, those who sign the communique

Communique

The registration lacks sense and justification if one is not considering the participation of the registered party in the nearest elections. However, in the face of the 1980 elections for the provincial representatives to the legislation council, registration entails the following:

A. The registered party will have to participate in an election without any incentive because the political gains it could obtain--if it won the elections--would be minimal. It could not even obtain the relative majority on the legislation council if it won all the available seats.

B. It would have to participate in elections for which the recent rules imposed by the government are designed so that the official party has all the advantages since the other parties, whether or not registered, do not have direct or indirect participation in the following:

1. In the composition of the electoral tribunal, whose members have been appointed by a system that controls all branches of government;

2. In the vote counting boards, whether national, provincial or local, and in the appointment of electoral and auxiliary registrars who are in charge of the registration process.

C. In the aforementioned election there is also no guarantee of proportional representation for the registered or unregistered parties on the bodies that are chosen by popular election. This guarantee is the basis of the rights of the opposition and the minorities, one of the pillars of the representative democratic system. For the coming electoral campaigns no measures have been taken--nor is it foreseen that they will be taken--to assure the establishment of an administrative career [system] that will protect the public employee from political pressure. There are no guarantees for the adequate supervision of state funds to prevent their use for political expenditures.

2. [as heard] In the face of the current political regime, registration implies:

A. To promote and facilitate the government's task of selling here and abroad the idea that our country turned toward political democracy at the moment when the so-called constitutional and legal reforms were approved and the National Guard nominally withdrew to its garrisons;

B. To contribute to the promotion in the country of a false atmosphere of effective democracy which the government has been sponsoring in order to facilitate the approval of the laws that the U.S. Congress must issue to complement the canal treaties and to confront the economic, political and social crisis which is growing worse because of the following reasons, among others: the increase that is foreseen in fuel prices, the opening of the process of collective bargaining at a time when businessmen are still experiencing a period of economic contraction and the workers are suffering the pressures of inflation, and the exaggerated debt of the country which will make the financing of new investment projects increasingly more difficult.

We do not object to the government's attempt to create an image of effective democracy, for whatever purpose, but it should not be done by deceit, as through the high-level commission, but by facilitating the approval of substantial political reforms in whose discussion and approval all currents of opinion participate. This will assure the dismantling of a hegemonic government system and the establishment of truly just and impartial rules of the game, rules that will guarantee the participation of all parties in the struggle for political power in an impartial process of orderly elections. This is what effective democracy means. We know that the achievement of those goals will not be obtained through dialog or participation in the registration process but through the concerted effort of all opposition groups.

3. In the face of Law 81 of 1978 and decree 195 of 1978, which regulates political parties, registration implies:

A. The party which decides to register expressly admits its nonexistence, becoming a party in the process of registration, a process which could result in its recognition as a legally constituted party or an extinguished party if it does not obtain the number of members the law stipulates. Furthermore, after being constituted it would face the risk of extinction if it does not obtain in the next presidential elections the percentage of the votes cast established for its survival. There is nothing to prevent this last requirement on existence from being imposed for the 1980 elections.

B. In the process of registration, the party accepts as satisfactory a political parties law that does not give the opposition parties sufficient guarantees because of the following reasons:

1. As far as the registration itself, the government, through the electoral tribunal, exclusively reserves for itself the registration function in addition to the task of drafting the lists of voters, issuing cedulas and other details of the elections. The government's management of elections has not been very exemplary. As was shown in the recent elections for corregimiento representatives, not even the appointment of auxiliary registrars is done with the direct or indirect participation of the political parties.

2. The rights which are supposedly reserved to the registered parties or those in the process of registration in Points C, D, E, L and M of Article 35 of Decree 195 are nothing new and something that the current government is willing to respect only when it is in its interest. They are rights which are derived from the fundamental rights of citizens and which were established in the articles of the constitution regarding the citizen's rights to freedom of expression (Article 36), freedom of assembly (Article 36), freedom of association with peaceful objectives (Article 38) and freedom of [word indistinct] (Article 40).

[3.] Regarding the prerogatives granted to registered political parties in Points A, B, C, F, G, H, I and K, in truth they are not innovations but goals, objectives and realizations that can very well be achieved by political parties without having to register and without having the recognition of the government.

4. The only real and positive advantage that is granted to the registered political parties is therefore that of receiving the subsidies of the state in accordance with Articles 38 and 40 of Law 81 of 1978. This is so because even the right of nominating candidates to publicly elected posts is not an exclusive right of the registered political parties since the law recognizes the system of free nomination.

4. [as heard] In the face of the position that the opposition parties should adopt, registration implies the following:

A. To weaken and delay the objective of establishing a national opposition front, without which all political initiative would lack sense and effectiveness;

B. Registration would involve parties in a task that demands [word indistinct] sacrifices to the detriment of the joint effort which the opposition parties should undertake to achieve a constitutional reform that will promote an effective political democracy.

C. The registration process would demand the use of funds which could be utilized in other more effective actions such as, for example, the creation of communications media which the opposition does not have. This need is urgent in view of the fact that the political reforms recently approved did not include the aspirations of the PLN of establishing limits on the costs for electoral propaganda and a system that would guarantee to all political parties the nondiscriminate and equitable use of the communications media during the electoral campaigns.

Since registration is a measure of political character whose repercussions could be negative in regard to the spirit of the opponents to the system, it is essential that its approval be decided upon, as one of many initiatives that might be approved, once the front is established. Regarding the immediate decision of registering the party, as far as the PLN is concerned the following obstacles hinder this:

A. Without detracting from the truly critical tone of some communiques and statements of the Liberal leadership, it is undeniable that the decision adopted some months ago by the National Directorate to the effect of not joining the opposition front and of having the party participate, without preconditions of any type, in the high-level commission which discussed the political reforms adopted by the government and whose results we already know, has done nothing but sow doubt and confusion among a considerable number of fellow party supporters who find it truly difficult to be affiliated with a party that has not yet decided its political course.

B. It is also true that, whatever the reasons, there has not been an updating of the national, provincial and district organizations of the party; the new currents that have joined our organization must be represented in those groups and the names of those who no longer belong to the party must be excluded. The latter only contribute to the increasing doubt and confusion among those who remain loyal to the principles of Liberalism.

Note: The original of this communique has been signed by the following persons: Guillermo Elias Quijano, Dr Julio Linares, Tarsicio Bernal, Dr Ezequiel Rodriguez, Carlos Lopez Schaw, Alfredo Aleman Jr, Jose E. Sition, Marcos A. Matos, Rafael Fernandez, Carlos Robolt, Manuel R. Vallarino, Alfredo Aleman, Dr Carlos Luca Lopez, Dr Guillermo Casco Arias, Guillermo E. Quijano Jr, Ricardo Salcedo, Jorge Morales, Agustin Cedeno, Alejandro Stephens, Francisco Quijano, Secundino Arrocha, Ricardo Duran, Ramon Alberto Morales.

BELIZE

PREMIER PRICE ANNOUNCES MINISTERIAL REPLACEMENTS

FL191705 Belize City THE REPORTER in English 14 Jan 79 p 8 FL

[Excerpts] Vacancies caused by the resignation of the two key ministers from the cabinet of Premier George Price have now been filled.

Ten days after he lost his minister of trade and industry and his attorney general, Premier George Price announced the replacements: Education Minister Guadalupe Pech for the Ministry of Trade and Industry and Consumer Protection and Attorney-at-Law Edwin Flowers, a former chief magistrate, for the post of attorney general.

In a supplementary move parliamentary Secretary Mr Elijio (Joe) Briceno has been moved to the front bench to become minister of education. The barebones announcement of the replacements was made without acknowledgement of the work of the departing ministers and only a passing reference to the fact that they had resigned and the premier had accepted their resignations.

The choice of Mr Edwin Flowers as attorney general came as a complete surprise to many. The premier's first choice was his senator in residence and nephew-in-law, Mr Said Musa, but Musa turned it down cold. The premier's second choice was his ambassador to the Caribbean, Mr V. H. Courtenay. But Courtenay, who was at one time attorney general and who was given the euphemistic appointment as ambassador to the Caribbean to make way for Shoman (who not only became attorney general but minister of state and procurador de la nacion), sneered at the offer.

Premier's appointment of Mr Guadaloupe Pech as minister of trade and industry and consumer protection has received more general acceptance. Pech, who is a teacher by profession, has first-hand knowledge of neither trade nor industry, but as minister of education he built a solid reputation for honesty and hard work. He is still the most approachable and the most honourable of all the premier's men.

Coming from the relative tranquillity of education into the rough-and-tumble world of trade and industry may provide a few surprises for the quiet and introverted new minister of trade. Whether these will cause him to undergo a political metamorphosis remains to be seen.

In upgrading the parliamentary secretary, Mr Joe Briceno, to the Ministry of Education Premier Price has had to take a calculated risk. The flamboyant and much derided Mr Briceno is not admired for his finesse; nor is he conspicious for any ability outside the severely limited circle of the Orange Walk sugar belt. His success at his new job will be judged on how well he can negotiate with the militant and articulate teachers' lobby and whether he can make a contribution to improve Belize's deplorable housing situation.

COSTA RICA

TWO NICARAGUAN GUARDSMEN CAPTURED NEAR LOS CHILES

PA222254 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 2220 GMT 22 Jan 79 PA

[Text] San Jose--Public Security Minister Juan Jose Echeverria Brealey officially announced a few minutes ago that two Nicaraguan National Guardsmen were captured early this morning near Los Chiles, on Costa Rican territory.

The two guardsmen were captured during an inspection tour of the area by Costa Rican public security officers. The minister said the two guardsmen are being brought to the capital so that they can be presented to the OAS observers here tomorrow. The two guardsmen are expected to give their statements to public security officials tomorrow.

BRIEFS

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES--The Central Bank has reported that Costa Rica's foreign exchange reserves have increased by more than $16 million in the last few weeks. The reserves totaled $190.7 million on 31 December 1978 and $200.7 million on 8 January 1979. [all figures as heard] [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jan 79 PA]

EL SALVADOR

ARCHBISHOP TERMS PRESIDENT ROMERO 'A LIAR'

PA230213 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0058 GMT 23 Jan 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 22 Jan (LATIN)--San Salvador Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero has said that President Gen Carlos Humberto Romero is a liar, an act which worsens the two men's dispute over the alleged violation of human rights in this Central American country.

Monsignor Romero, who has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize because of his denunciation of alleged human rights violations in El Salvador, also charged that the National Guardsmen who killed five youths accused of being guerrillas are assassins.

In his Sunday sermon at the metropolitan cathedral, the text of which was released today, Monsignor Romero also announced the excommunication of the perpetrators and the masterminds of the death of Priest Octavio Ortiz. According to the National Guard, the priest was one of those killed in an armed clash in the parish house in the San Antonio Abad neighborhood.

In an unprecedented position which intensifed his dispute with General Romero, the archbishop termed the president a liar in referring to statements he made during a news conference in Mexico last week.

When a British newsman asked President Romero about the situation of 99 persons who appear as missing on a list drafted by the San Salvador archbishop, the president answered: By the time the archbishop, who is a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize, has certain information to reveal, when it reaches him, many of the persons he mentions have already either been released or are in the process of being turned over to the civil courts to decide their guilt or innocence. The president added: All of the names that have been issued by the person that you mentioned are in the following situation: Some of them are out of the country by their own will, others are awaiting trial by the civil courts and others have returned to their homes.

In the same news conference, Salvadoran Foreign Minister Jose Antonio Rodriguez Porth said that the archbishop is stepping outside the law because in his Sunday sermon he dedicated 10 minutes to the Gospel and 50 minutes to increasingly harsh political propaganda. Nevertheless, not even the most minimal action has been taken against this priest who holds the high office of archbishop of San Salvador. Rodriguez Porth added that most of El Salvador's bishops are against the position and the attitude of the archbishop, who is a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize.

FARN TAKES CREDIT FOR KIDNAPING ISRAELI CONSUL

PA222002 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1834 GMT 22 Jan 79 PA

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 22 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The clandestine Armed Forces of National Resistance (FARN) today claimed credit for the kidnaping of wealthy industrialist and coffee exporter Ernesto Liebes, the Israeli consul in El Salvador.

According to a FARN communique issued today, which put an end to 6 days of silence, a squadron led by Alberto Garcia Calderon kidnaped Liebes at noon on 17 January in southeast San Salvador. In exchange for Liebes' life, the extremist group is demanding the release of several political prisoners.

The group calls its operation "Heroes of the Salvadoran Revolution Anastasio Aquin, Farabundo Marti, Feliciano Ama, Saul Santiago Contreras, Roque Dalton Garcia, Felipe Pena and Lil Milagro Ramirez." According to the FARN, the latter has been a prisoner for several years.

The communique adds that the day Liebes was kidnaped, the FARN seized an M-1 carbine and a .45-caliber automatic pistol from his bodyguard. The lives of (?other motorists) were respected because, upon seeing the FARN members, they became petrified. The document adds that several uniformed policemen who were nearby fled without trying to stop them.

Finally, the FARN announces that it will attack several National Guard headquarters and continue kidnaping prominent Salvadoran and foreign individuals "until all political prisoners are released." (?Meanwhile, the Salvadoran Government claims that it does not have any) political prisoners and that those who violate the Law for the Guarantee and Defense of Public Order are being tried by civil courts.

30 GUERRILLAS AT MEXICAN EMBASSY LEAVE FOR MEXICO

PA230218 Paris AFP in Spanish 0149 GMT 23 Jan 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 22 Jan (AFP)--The 30 guerrillas of the United Popular Action Front (FAPU) who had taken political asylum at the Mexican Embassy left for Mexico City tonight. The Salvadoran authorities issued the safe-conducts to the youths following the intervention of the Mexican Foreign Ministry shortly before the official 3-day visit to Mexico of Salvadoran President Carlos H. Romero.

GUATEMALA

FOREIGN MINISTER CASTILLO VALDEZ LEAVES FOR HONDURAS

PA221524 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1324 GMT 22 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 22 Jan (LATIN)--Guatemalan Foreign Minister Rafael Castillo Valdez this morning left for Tegucigalpa, Honduras, an official spokesman has announced. The foreign minister's visit begins a short tour that will take him through Central America with a personal message from President Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia to his counterparts. The text of the message has not been revealed, although it is rumored that it concerns the Central American Common Market.

Castillo Valdez will arrive today in Tegucigalpa and return to Guatemala later the same day. Wednesday, he will leave for Nicaragua and will visit Costa Rica on Thursday. He will conclude his tour in El Salvador on Friday, the official announcement added.

NICARAGUA

REPORT ON SANDINIST SABOTAGE OPERATIONS OVER WEEKEND

PA222005 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1516 GMT 22 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 22 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) this weekend continued its "no more foreign exchange for Somoza" sabotage operation against Nicaraguan industrial installations.

Friday evening armed men raided La Maquina Farm, owned by Fanor Arguello, a major landowner, and set fire to 80 quintals of cotton and a tractor. The farm is near the city of Leon in the west. The Prolonged People's War faction of the FSLN today claimed credit for this operation, noting that the Justo Centeno Quiroz Brigade carried it out. Before leaving the farm, the members of the brigade exhorted peasants to organize themselves in a struggle for better salaries.

Elsewhere, this morning insurance companies were evaluating losses resulting from Saturday night's fire in the Tejidos de Nicaragua S.A. clothing factory in this capital. The factory is owned by Abraham (?Rorn), a Jewish industrialist. A Sandinist squad of 12 men armed with submachineguns and other weapons appeared suddenly at the industrial installation and immediately disarmed the guards. They then exploded several bombs which started a fire. Losses have been estimated in the millions, but no exact figure has been reported. Abraham (?Rorn), president of the Jewish community in Nicaragua, has stated that the factory was covered by insurance, but the policy does not fully cover the loss. Approximately 300 persons have been left jobless as a result of the destruction of the factory.

Meanwhile, it was established today that the amount of money taken by another Sandinist squad from the strongbox of Hilados Nicaraguenses S.A. in this capital was 25,642 cordobas ($3,664). Four armed men pointed their guns at company personnel and forced Manager Luis Lopez to hand over what was in the box.

Elsewhere, the Proletarian faction of the FSLN in Managua has reported that in various actions carried out between 1 and 4 January, the organization recovered a total of 12 weapons of various calibers.

BRIEFS

LOAN FOR AGRICULTURE--It has been confirmed that the Central American Integration Bank and the National Development Institute approved a $3-million loan. The money will be used to finance a program for the promotion, development and expansion of agricultural firms located in several parts of the country. [Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2355 GMT 18 Jan 79 PA]

AMBASSADORS APPOINTED--Managua, 19 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan Government has appointed Jose Sanson Teran as its new ambassador to Colombia. He will be replacing William Barquero Montiel, who has been appointed ambassador to Chile. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0206 GMT 20 Jan 79 PA]

CUBA, YUGOSLAVIA ISSUE JOINT STATEMENT ON MALMIERCA VISIT

FL221143 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Jan 79 FL

[Text] In Belgrade, Cuba and Yugoslavia have asserted that the upcoming Maputo ministerial meeting of nonalined countries will be directed strengthening solidarity with the struggle of liberation movements. A press release published in the Yugoslav capital on the occasion of Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca's visit states that the Maputo meeting will also strengthen the solidarity with and support for the frontline countries in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, racism and apartheid.

ECONOMIC PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH HUNGARY

FL230057 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Cuba and Hungary have signed a protocol on the second stage of coordinating economic plans for the 1981-1985 5-year period. The document was signed by Raul Pavon, vice president of the Cuban Central Planning Board, and Ferenc Biro, deputy chairman of the Hungarian National Planning Office.

CUBAN CULTURE DAYS BEGIN IN SOVIET UNION

FL221233 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Jan 79 FL

[Text] The days of Cuban culture in the Soviet Union will begin tomorrow, Tuesday, and will last until 1 February. More than 350 Cuban artists will participate in the activities. To that end, Armando Hart Davalos, member of the PCC Politburo and culture minister, has arrived in Moscow accompanied by an official delegation. The activities will be dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the revolution's triumph, a date which has been broadly honored throughout the Soviet Union for nearly 1 year.

Culture Minister Hart Comments

FL222109 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1916 GMT 22 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Armando Hart Davalos, member of the PCC Politburo and minister of culture, has stated in Moscow that the Cuban people are very thankful to the USSR for the extensive commemoration in that country of the 20th anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban Revolution. Hart held a press conference in the Soviet capital to discuss the inauguration of the days of Cuban culture in the USSR, which will be held beginning tomorrow, through 1 February.

Hart stated that the victory of the Cuban Revolution would not have been possible without the internationalist aid from the USSR, and this is why we believe that our victory and our commemoration also belongs to the fraternal Soviet people. The Cuban culture minister stated that the delegation he heads has not only brought outstanding artistic groups and art works to the USSR, but also the fraternal greetings of the Cuban people. Armando Hart stated in Moscow that the main objective of the days of Cuban culture in the USSR is not only to expand contacts in the arts and literature, but above all, to strengthen the ties of fraternal solidarity with the peoples of the USSR.

The program of the days of Cuban culture in the USSR includes concerts and evening entertainment, plastic arts and book exhibits, movie shows and other activities, including for the first time participation of Cuban amateurs.

USSR Deputy Culture Minister Vladimir Popov also spoke at the press conference held in Moscow. He pointed out that the days of Cuban culture is an important political and social event. Popov stated that it is a friendship festival between our two peoples which is being celebrated with great happiness in all of the Soviet republics. USSR Deputy Culture Minister Vladimir Popov stated that the festival which begins tomorrow will be the most important festival on Cuban culture ever celebrated in the USSR because of its volume, breadth and diversity of events. In discussing the first time that amateur Cuban artists are participating in this event, he said that this shows the important social and political changes which have occurred in Cuba over the 20 years of the revolution, especially by the broad popular masses in the arts. The high Soviet official pointed out that the broad exhibition of the successes of Cuban culture not only include the new level of relations between the two countries but also the reciprocal enrichment of the spiritual values of the two countries. Among the artistic groups that will participate in this event are the Cuban National Ballet, the national folklore group and others.

CUBAN-FINNISH TALKS OPEN IN HAVANA

FL221238 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Jan 79 FL

[Text] The fourth meeting of the mixed commission for economic, industrial, scientific and technical cooperation between Cuba and Finland will begin today at the Sierra Maestra Hotel in this capital. For that purpose, Finland's Foreign Trade Minister Eero Rantala arrived in Havana yesterday. The minister is accompanied by a delegation of governmental officials and businessmen. Upon arrival they were met at the Jose Marti International Airport by Hector Rodriguez Llompart, minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES CUBAN DELEGATION TO PALESTINIAN COUNCIL

FL221257 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Jan 79 FL

[Text] The Cuban delegation attending the 14th Palestinian National Council meeting in Damascus, Syria, which is headed by PCC Central Committee member Jose Alvarez Bravo, was received by Yasir 'Arafat, the highest leader of the Palestinian resistance. Alvarez Bravo conveyed to the Palestinian leader greetings from the PCC leadership. For his part, 'Arafat sent another message of greetings to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro.

ANGOLAN LEADER PRAISES CUBAN TEACHING BRIGADE

FL230138 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Roberto de Almeida, candidate member of the Angolan MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee, has said that his country would feel proud if their youth followed the example of the members of the Che Guevara teaching detachment. The Angolan leader presided over an event in Luanda on the occasion of the first contingent of Cuban internationalist youth who have completed their mission of participating in the literacy campaign carried out in Angola.

LIBERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES CUBAN OFFICIAL

FL201549 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1514 GMT 20 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Liberian Foreign Minister Cecil Dennis has received in Monrovia, the capital of that African country, Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Jose Raul Viera. In a meeting dealing with the preparations in Cuba for the sixth nonalined countries summit meeting, Vice Minister Viera delivered a letter from Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca to the Liberian official.

BANGLADESH PRESIDENT RECEIVES CUBAN ENVOY

FL230051 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Republic of Bangladesh President Maj Gen Ziaur Rahman has received Cuban Ambassador Jose Lopez Sanchez, and through him Rahman has sent his warmest greetings and wishes of success to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers. Rahman and the Cuban diplomat dealt with questions relating to the upcoming nonalined countries summit which will be held in Havana.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH TOGO

FL221509 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1450 GMT 22 Jan 79 FL

[Text] The Governments of Cuba and the Republic of Togo have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level and to work for close cultural and economic ties. The agreement was reached based on the principles enunciated in the charters of the United Nations and the nonalined countries movement.

FAR MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF LAOTIAN PEOPLE'S ARMY

FL221324 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 22 Jan 79 FL

[Text] The Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] main event commemorating the 30th anniversary of the founding of the people's army of the People's Democratic Republic of Laos was held at the auditorium of the Antiaircraft Defense and Revolutionary Air Force [DAFAR] general staff headquarters. Sitting at the dais were Div Gen Francisco Cabrera, alternate member of the PCC Central Committee and vice minister-chief of the DAFAR; Laotian Ambassador to Cuba (Khomohan Denot); and Jorge Aldereguia, president of the Cuba-Laos Friendship Association; as well as Colonels Manuel Penado Casanova and Demetrio Montseny Villa and FAR chiefs and officers.

The opening remarks were made by (Khamhong Butsaba), first secretary of the Laotian embassy in Cuba, and the closing speech by Col Lazaro Felino Gonzalez, deputy chief of the DAFAR for political work. (Khamhong Butsaba) expressed satisfaction over our country's commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Laotian Armed Forces. He said this event constitutes a symbol of the sympathy, solidarity and combatant and fraternal friendship of the FAR toward the Laotian Army and people.

In his closing remarks, Col Lazaro Felino said that the Laotian liberation people's armed forces have traversed a path of struggles and victories. He remarked that its combatants have accrued a rich combative experience, which constitutes a favorable record for the efforts currently being made in that fraternal country to build its regular military institutions. He recalled the struggle waged by the Laotian people throughout more than 100 years against French colonialism, Japanese militarism and Yankee imperialism. He noted that with the abolition of the monarchy in December 1975 and the proclamation of the People's Democratic Republic of Laos, a new and promising period began for the Laotian people, placing them on the path toward building a modern, prosperous and nonalined nation which is determinedly marching toward the realization of socialism's goals.

After referring to the need of the Laotian people and the rest of the revolutionary peoples of Indochina to live in peace, Colonel Felino Gonzalez pointed out the victory of the Kampuchean people over the reactionary Pol Pot and Ieng Sary regime, and added:

[Begin recording] Comrade representatives of the heroic Laotian people: On this 30th anniversary of the founding of the Laotian liberation people's armed forces, we wish you new and resounding successes and take this opportunity to reiterate the combative solidarity of our people and their Revolutionary Armed Forces. [end recording]

SIMON BOLIVAR COMMISSION PRESENTED

FL221959 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1902 GMT 22 Jan 79 FL

[Excerpt] This morning at the Casa de las Americas headquarters in Vedado, Havana, the national commemorative commission of Simon Bolivar's 200th birthday was established. Haydee Santamaria, president of the Casa de las Americas, presented the members of the commission, which includes Raul Roa as president and Antonio Nunez Jimenez, Pelegrin Torras and Manuel Galich as vice presidents. The secretary general of the commission is Francisco Pi Vidal, and the members will include representatives from various organizations, among them the Ministries of Education and Higher Education, the Cuban Academy of Science, the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television (ICRT) and the University of Havana. The Bolivar bicentennial commission will be located in the Casa de las Americas headquarters in Vedado, Havana.

HAVANA PROVINCE HOLDS PARTY PLENUM

FL192129 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2102 GMT 19 Jan 79 FL

[Text] The seventh plenum of the provincial committee of the PCC in Havana Province was held with the attendance of the Secretariat and bureau members at that level. In his closing remarks at the event, Luis Alvarez de la Nuez, first secretary of the party provincial committee in Havana Province, pointed out the need to set priorities in export production to save foreign currency for the country. The PCC provincial meeting approved the plan for the present year, examined the party's growth in 1978 and discussed the development of the sugarcane harvest up to the moment, among other important topics. Lastly, the party plenum in Havana agreed to send a letter of congratulations to the Jesus Menendez brigade of the National Association of Small Farmers--ANAP--for becoming the first "millionaire" brigade in the country.

PEREZ HERRERO PRESIDES OVER INDER MEETING

FL201329 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Antonio Perez Herrero, member of the PCC Central Committee Secretariat, has presided over the final session of the meeting on examining and giving guidance to the National Institute for Sports, Physical Education and Recreation--INDER--which met for 3 days at the Salvador Allende teacher training school in this capital. Jose Ramon Fernandez, member of the PCC Central Committee and vice president of the Council of Ministers, who gave the closing remarks at the event, stated that in February the INDER will commemorate its 18th anniversary, and that this has allowed it to gain good experiences which have been used in analyzing and evaluating tasks at this meeting and which will also be used in analyzing future tasks of the organization.

ALMEIDA TOURS BARACOA CONSTRUCTION SITES

FL221131 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Juan Almeida, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Council of State, has visited 17 construction sites and other installations during a tour of Baracoa.

The Ruben David Suarez "Abella" chocolate factory and the Guama oil extracting plant were some of the places visited. Almeida congratulated the workers of the two centers for the successful fulfillment of the technical and economic plans for the year 1978. He also visited the new ice plant, the Toa River bridge, the building erected in the Malecon area, the construction site of the Sanguily Motel, the pier, the Punta Restaurant and the bakery. The extensive tour also included the suburban area of Cabacu, where preparations are being made for the construction of a 104-apartment building.

HAVANA STUDENTS BEGIN AGRICULTURAL WORK SESSION

FL230041 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Jan 79 FL

[Text] This week the 51,331 midlevel education students of Havana City will be set up in their respective camps and for 45 days will take part in agricultural tasks. A total of 22,600 from the teaching and preuniversity centers of Havana City Province will work in the tobacco areas of Pinar del Rio. The remaining will carry out tasks in agricultural sites in Havana Province.

SUBTERRANEAN WATER PROSPECTING TO BEGIN THIS YEAR

FL230034 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Hydrogeological liftings will begin in Cuba this year with the cooperation of the CEMA. This information was announced by Eng Ernesto Varela, national director of hydrogeology, in his closing remarks at the seventh national plenum of that department in the Hydro-Economics Institute in the Construction Ministry, which was held in Camaguey. The long-term project will mainly count on the technical assistance of Soviet specialists and will allow the drawing up of a map on the characteristics of the subterranean waters for their better preservation and exploitation.

JOSE R. FERNANDEZ RECEIVES FINNISH AMBASSADOR

FL200027 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Jose R. Fernandez, member of the PCC Central Committee and vice president of the Council of Ministers, has received in private audience His Excellency Mr Jussi Montonen, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Finland to Cuba. During the talks, which were held in a cordial atmosphere, different topics dealing with the ties existing between the two countries were discussed.

GUATEMALAN LABOR PARTY DELEGATION VISITS

FL221513 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1450 GMT 22 Jan 79 FL

[Text] A high-level delegation of the Guatemalan Labor Party has recently visited our country in response to an invitation to attend the events commemorating the 20th anniversary of the revolution's triumph. During the talks held with Cuban officials, the visitors reported on the struggle being waged by the Guatemalan people against the dictatorship oppressing that fraternal country. There was also an exchange of experiences and information between the Cuban and Guatemalan parties.